

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed on May 7, 2007. Claims 1-31 and 33-36 are pending in the application with Claims 1 and 23 being in independent form. By the present amendment, Claim 23 has been amended and dependent Claim 32 has been cancelled.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of Claims 1-22. Applicants further gratefully acknowledge the allowance of Claims 32 and 35 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim as indicated in the Office Action mailed on October 5, 2006. The language recited by Claim 32 has been incorporated into independent Claim 23.

I. Rejection of Claims 23-31, 33-34 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

In the Office Action, Claims 23-31, 33-34 and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,818,856 issued to Matsushima et al. (“Matsushima et al.”).

Applicants have amended independent Claim 23 to include language recited by cancelled Claim 32. In particular, Claim 23 has been amended to add an additional step of “passing light reflected from the target being imaged through a second aperture.”

Matsushima et al. does not disclose or suggest, *inter alia*, passing light reflected from the target being imaged through a second aperture as currently recited by Applicants’ Claim 23. It is therefore respectfully submitted that, in view of the amendment to Claim 23 and in view of arguments presented above, Claim 23 is patentable over Matsushima et al.

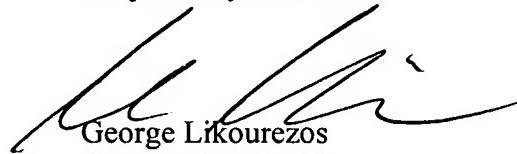
Applicants' Claims 24-31, 33-34 and 36 depend, directly or indirectly, from Claim 23 and therefore include all the features and limitations of Claim 23. Therefore for at least the same reasons presented above for the patentability of Claim 23, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 24-31, 33-34 and 36 are also patentable over Matsushima et al. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and allowance of Claims 23-31, 33-34 and 36 are requested.

II. Conclusions

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the application and allowance of all the claims is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview may facilitate prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone Applicants' undersigned representative at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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